

## VOTING ISSUES FOR MILITARY MEMBERS

### I. Residency for voting purposes

A. **Generally.** Only United States Citizens over the age of 18 may vote in elections in the United States, and in order to vote in any particular election, a citizen must be registered with the appropriate voting office or board of elections. Although the states have different registration requirements, most require proof of age and residence within that jurisdiction. Federal law guarantees that your state of residency shall not be lost solely due to absence from that state due to military orders. Section 595 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides in part that military service in a particular state, without more, does not establish residency in that state for Federal, state or local voting purposes. (A servicemember may become a resident and domicile of a state in which he is located by intending to make that state his permanent residence, as evidenced by registering to vote in that state, paying income taxes in that state, obtaining a drivers' license in that state, and through other means.) The military has a program designed to help servicemembers get registered, and vote. The program is called the **Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)**, and implements DoD Directive 1000.4, "Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)", 04/14/2004, both of which can be found online at: <http://www.fvap.gov/index.html>.

1. **How to vote while in the military.** Military members on active duty will most-likely decide to vote using absentee ballots, which are available from local election boards, or in some cases, can be obtained online. Registered voters can fill out the absentee ballot, and mail it to the appropriate jurisdiction by the applicable deadline, and be counted. The FVAP website has updated schedules for state and Federal elections. Persons who need more information or assistance should contact their unit's Voting Assistance Officer, or can call FVAP directly at 1-800-438-8683.



United States Department of  
Defense

***Federal Voting Assistance  
Program***



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**[I Want To Vote!](#)**

[Ten Things to Help  
Ensure your Absentee  
Vote is Counted](#)

**[Publications and Forms](#)**

Please remember to  
read your state's  
instructions before  
completing the Federal  
Post Card Application!

- [State by State  
Instructions](#)
- [On-line  
Registration  
and Absentee  
Ballot Request  
Form](#)
- [On-Line  
Federal Write-  
In Absentee  
Ballot](#)

[Voting Assistance  
Information](#)

[Local Election Official  
Information](#)

**This web site provides  
information to US citizens  
covered by the [Uniformed and  
Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting  
Act \(UOCAVA\)](#).**

If you are not a [UOCAVA](#) citizen,  
and wish to vote absentee as a  
regular state voter, please [click  
here for links to State Election  
Sites](#). If you wish to vote in person,  
please contact your local county  
election official (listed in the  
Government Pages of the telephone  
book).

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**Election Results:** Check your [State  
Election Site](#).

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***FVAP NEWS***

**Local Election Officials:** check  
out the new ballot return envelope  
design samples with the Standard  
Oath at [www.fvap.gov/leo/postal.  
html](http://www.fvap.gov/leo/postal.html).

**FVAP SERVICES**

- [Ombudsman](#)
  - [Toll-Free  
Telephone  
Numbers to  
FVAP](#)
- [Electronic  
Transmission \(Faxing\)](#)
- [Voting Information  
Center](#)
- [Get-Out-The-Vote  
Campaign](#)
- [Slogan Contest](#)
- [Armed Forces Voter  
Week](#)
- [Voting Assistance  
Workshops and e-  
Learning](#)
- [Legislative Initiatives](#)
- [e-Voting Initiatives](#)

**LINKS**

- [The U.S. Senate](#)
- [The US House of  
Representatives](#)
- [Other Federal Sites](#)
- [State Election Sites](#)
- [State Legislatures](#)

[Military Recruiter  
Information](#)

[What is my County?](#)

[Frequently Asked  
Questions](#)

[Communicating with  
Your Elected Official](#)

[Laws and Guidelines](#)

[Recommended Best  
Practices](#)

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[DefenseLink](#) - United  
States Department of  
Defense



[America Supports You - Our Military Men and  
Women](#)

- [Overseas Citizen  
Groups](#)
- [Election Organizations](#)
- [Political Organizations](#)
- [Miscellaneous  
Election-related  
Organizations](#)

## SERVICE VOTING WEB SITES

- [U.S. Army](#)
- [U.S. Navy](#)
- [U. S. Air Force](#)
- [U.S. Marine Corps](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard](#)



[FirstGov](#)--The U.S.  
Government Web Portal

*Please read the [Important Notices](#).*

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